

The question is, shall LB 491 be advanced to E & R Initial? Those in favor vote aye, opposed nay. We are voting on the advancement of 491. Have you all voted? Please record.

CLERK: 25 ayes, 0 nays, Mr. President, on the motion to advance 491.

SPEAKER BARRETT: The bill is advanced. Anything for the record?

CLERK: Not at this time, Mr. President.

SPEAKER BARRETT: The next bill please, Mr. Clerk.

CLERK: Mr. President, 272 was a bill that was introduced by Senators Wesely, Hall and Morehead. (Read title.) The bill was introduced on January 14, referred to the Business and Labor Committee for hearing. It was advanced to General File, Mr. President. I have no amendments to the bill.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Senator Wesely, will you be handling the bill? You are recognized.

SENATOR WESELY: Thank you. Mr. Speaker, members, LB 272 was introduced to deal with a quirk in the law that we discovered when an individual over at the Labor Department was elected to the nonpartisan Southeast Community College Board. That individual was an employee of the Labor Department and discovered that, evidently, when we made some changes, some 10 years ago, in the mini-Hatch Act of the state, that reflected changes of the federal Hatch Act, which allowed for public employees to serve in nonpartisan capacities in public office, that the Labor Department's provisions had not been amended as the other ones had been. As a result this individual has had some court actions filed and some situations that have led to both the Labor Department and this individual, and those concerned with the issue to come forward with this bill. It is a consensus bill to recognize that an error was made and the statute is out-of-date and needs to be clarified so that individuals at the Labor Department, as in other agencies, can run and serve on a nonpartisan board. That is what the bill does. I ask for support and its advancement to Select File.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Thank you, Senator Wesely. For discussion on the bill the Chair recognizes Senator Hall, followed by Senator Morehead.